

SNYDER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
2021-2022



Dear Snyder Student-Athletes and Parents,

We are pleased to have you as a part of our Snyder Athletic Program. We sincerely hope that the experience you have through our athletic program will be both enjoyable and successful. We are looking forward to helping our athletes learn and grow.

The information contained herein has been provided for you to read and study carefully, as it is your responsibility to know the rules and regulations of our Snyder Athletic Program. This handbook is used as a guideline for all of our high school programs. However, individual head coaches in each sport may give additional rules and policies.

Any questions that you may have should be brought to the attention of your child's coach. He or she will assist you in any way necessary.

"If anything in this manual (Athletic Handbook) is in contradiction with the Student Code of Conduct of Snyder ISD Board Policy, the Code of Conduct or Policy shall prevail."

Athletic Director/Head Football Coach

Wes Wood

ATHLETIC PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

Our Athletic Program aspires to be a supportive and positive addition to the educational mission at Snyder ISD. We will uphold a respectable and competitive athletic reputation. We desire to be a program that will promote, nurture and graduate student-athletes who are molded and developed under the guidance of caring role models. Our coaches and athletes at Snyder should always represent themselves with great character and integrity while pursuing excellence in multiple sports and the classroom.

TIGER ATHLETIC VISION

Increase participation numbers and multi-sport athletes
Develop lifelong friendships, and productive members of society
Coach athletes the way we want our own children coached
Teach our kids how to win, and how to use losing as a teaching tool

COACHING KEY POINTS

1. **Competitiveness** – Preach and coach with the constant advocacy of competing. WE WILL NEVER GIVE UP and will always have the mindset to refuse to lose.
2. **Physicality** – The concept to be more physical and aggressive than our opponents will be promoted in every sport. Weakness in this area is a direct reflection on a program's core identity.
3. **TEAM Concept** – Nothing and no one is more important than the program. Respect and selflessness are essential and individualism has no place. Truly great players make those around him/her better as well. Players must want to be a part of something bigger than themselves.
4. **Discipline** – Discipline is the key to success. Without it, you have no structure.
5. **Thinking Like a Winner** – We will expect to win each contest. Attitude governs actions. A winner realizes the urgency of getting the job done, and facing the fire. Losers procrastinate, wait for someone else to try, and back down. A winner is willing to admit their mistakes, whereas a loser will transfer the blame elsewhere.

ELIGIBILITY FOR ATHLETICS

Our school is a member in good standing with the UIL, and all rules and regulations will be strictly enforced. There are specific requirements for participating in athletics. All of the online eligibility forms that are more commonly known as Arbiter Forms are required to be signed, initialed, and/or completed by both the student-athletes and a parent (legal guardian) online at PlanetHS. By signing/completing these forms, all parties will agree to abide by the rules, and allow the coaches to make decisions in the best interest of the team. All High School student-athletes must participate in off season work-outs in their particular sports. Exceptions to this will be made at the discretion of their coach/coaches. Education is a Right, but Athletics is a Privilege.

SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible to play, a senior must have a minimum of 15 credits, a junior must have 10 credits, and a sophomore must have 5 credits. A freshman has to have been promoted to high school, not placed. (These are the original credit requirements. The 2020 pandemic called for less credits and that may or may not change back.)

In all classroom work, a student must pass with a score of 70 or above (honors classes have exceptions). If a student-athlete fails one or more classes, he or she becomes ineligible to participate in athletics*. A student-athlete who is not eligible because of failing classes can regain eligibility by passing at the 3 week or 6 week grading period.

There is a 1 week grace period after each eligibility period (6 weeks) or (3 weeks) before a student-athlete can begin participation again. Student-athletes have to be passing all classes including the class they failed. If a student fails the first three six weeks of the year, the student-athlete may be removed from Athletics completely.

***Ineligible student-athletes may not travel with the team, and cannot participate in any games, pep-rallies, or parades. They cannot be on the bench/sideline during games, or act as a manager or stats keeper. However, they CAN and MUST still practice.

PRACTICE SESSIONS

The head coach of each sport will schedule all practices. Student-athletes are expected to attend every practice. When circumstances warrant one being excused from practice,

permission should be requested from the head coach in advance. Injured student-athletes should make every attempt to observe all practices as if they are not injured. All squad or team members are expected to be dressed and at the designated area at the appropriate time. Missed practices can and will result in a loss of playing time. Each sport may have their own regimen for making up missed practices. There will be no mandatory practices or contests held on Sunday. Parents/spectators are welcomed at practice sessions; however any interruptions to talk to players/coaches during their practice will be left up to the coach's discretion.

TRY-OUTS

If the situation warrants student-athletes to try-out in order to make the team the coach will determine the criteria to be used. After a review of all the pertinent information the coach will determine who has performed well enough to make the team. No one will be able to view the scores of anyone other than him or herself. Alternating individuals or a group or team may be implemented to ensure everyone receives playing time. This alternative will be used at the discretion of the coach; the coach will speak to the parents and the student-athlete if being cut is the decision of the coach.

SPECIALIZATION/RECRUITING

- Specialization in any one sport is **discouraged** by our full Athletic Department.
- All athletes are encouraged to participate in as many sports as they can.
- Student-athletes will not be restricted to any one sport by a coach.
- Student-athletes will not be encouraged to specialize in any one sport.
- Any student-athlete, parent, or coach suspecting a violation of these rules is asked to notify the Athletic Director or Athletic Coordinator immediately.

TRANSPORTATION OR TEAM TRAVEL

- Team members will travel to and from contests on school provided transportation. Student-athletes will only be released to the parents (or legal guardians) with a written/mailed request that is presented to the coach prior to leaving Snyder, or at the discretion of the coach.
- The coaches will see that teams return to Snyder as soon as possible after a contest, especially on school nights. Parents should be told when to expect the team home.

- Student-athletes should help keep the bus as clean as possible. Coaches will expect them to pick-up trash around their seats before leaving the bus.
- Student-athletes should be on time to meet their transportation or be left behind, unless the head coach has prior knowledge of the situation and prior approval.
- Parents will not be allowed to drive student-athletes to a contest and participate in any UIL event, unless approved by the coach.
- If coach permitted, parents can sign a student-athlete out after a game. But only the parent/guardian can take an athlete home. The parent must speak to the coach face to face to sign out a student-athlete.

ATHLETIC DRESS CODE STANDARDS

Tattoos are advised to be covered during practices and contests. Haircuts should be clean and well groomed. Students should not shave or cut designs into their hair or eyebrows. Facial hair should be clean and well groomed. No jewelry is allowed during any workout, practice, or competition. It is a safety issue. Students may not be allowed to take pictures or play with violations.

GAME DAY ATTIRE

Different sports within the Athletic Department may desire to project an image of unity and uniformity, and non-individualism with game day attire. An example might be a designated team shirt and khaki pants, or jeans that are required for student-athletes. Snyder ISD athletes are held to a higher standard and wearing specific game day attire aids in reinforcing this idea. Ultimately the decision will be up to the head coach of each sport. The attire that is chosen by the head coaches will be the standard of game day attire for each sport and up to the discretion of the Head Coach.

FUNDRAISERS

Each sport may have two fundraisers to supplement the district budget of that sport. The coach must complete a fundraiser form and have approval by the Athletic Director and the District's Chief Financial Officer.

EQUIPMENT

Student-athletes will be issued equipment throughout the school year. Each student-athlete will be responsible for the return of the equipment or payment if lost or stolen. An athlete will also be required to return all issued equipment upon the request of the coach. Prices of all equipment will be replacement costs. Athletes should lock their belongings in their designated locker before, during, and after practice (with their own lock). The Athletic Department is not responsible for lost or stolen personal items if the locker was left unlocked.

ATHLETIC AWARDS

- In order to be considered for athletic awards a student-athlete must be academically eligible and not have missed any games due to discipline the entire season. Exceptions are the coaches discretion.
- Letter jackets are ordered twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. The head coach will have the final decision on who receives a letter jacket.
- If you earn a letter jacket before your senior year, and fail to get fitted or order a jacket within the fall semester of your senior year, the school will no longer purchase you a jacket.
- General "lettering requirements" for athletics:
 - Must make/play on the varsity team.
 - Moving up for a few game's due to injury, numbers, or playoffs does not count.
 - Getting moved up permanently does count, but this must be done with a significant amount of games left.
 - Managers have to complete 2 years to letter, and be on good terms and intentions to continue.

CHANGING SPORTS

From the time a team plays its first scheduled contest, a student-athlete cannot change sports, quit or be dismissed from that team on their own accord.

Exceptions to this rule may be permitted under these conditions:

- The HC involved agrees that a mid-season change would be beneficial to the athlete and our program without hurting other individuals of either team. Also, the change is made on good terms between the player and coaches.
- The athlete has a doctor's statement that he/she should drop the first sport for logical medical reasons and permits participation in the second sport

Before an athlete is cleared to go to another sport, he/she must turn in all equipment and pay for lost or damaged equipment.

An athlete must not change classes or stop reporting to a sport until notified that the change has officially been made by his/her head coach.

QUITTING A TEAM

WE DO NOT WANT TO BUILD A CULTURE THAT BELIEVES QUITTING IS OKAY.

Student-athletes who quit a team will not be allowed to participate on any other varsity team for the rest of that semester, and most likely the next semester. That discretion is reserved for the coaches based upon the circumstances. Student-athletes who are removed from athletics, or quit athletics as a whole, and then want to return to athletics will be required to complete a 10/10 at minimum if allowed the opportunity at all.

Rather than quitting, a change can be made at the coaches discretion if it is agreed that a mid-season change would be beneficial to the athlete and our program on good terms.

All scenarios are at the discretion of the AD.

OFFSEASON/PRESEASON

It is the goal of the athletic program to protect the integrity of each sport, and continue to strive for excellence. The off-season training prepares student-athletes for in-season sports and promotes safety by getting them ready physically and mentally. All student-athletes will have to be active participants in off-season training before they can participate in that particular sport. The only exceptions will be for student-athletes participating in another sport that would cause him or her to miss off-season training for the next sport. Again, all decisions are up to the discretion of the coach.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

The conduct of a student-athlete at Snyder High School is closely observed in many areas of everyday life. It is important that actions be above reproach at all times. Therefore, all student-athletes must observe these guidelines for conduct:

- Conduct in competition: Student-athletes must strive to be gracious in defeat, be modest in victory, and maintain control of their emotions at all times.
- Conduct at school: The student-athlete should set examples for all students by following rules set forth by the administration and individual teachers.
- Conduct on trips: The student-athlete represents not only himself or herself, but also the community, school, coaches, and parents. Therefore student-athletes will dress and behave in a respectful, polite and acceptable manner.
- Student-athletes are held to a higher standard than normal students.

VIOLATIONS

Violations can be designated as “MINOR” or “MAJOR”.

MINOR violations are generally thought of as regular everyday mistakes. While these mistakes may not pose a problem if they are isolated cases, it is the concern of the Athletic Department that these violations or infractions do not repeat themselves.

Examples of “MINOR” violations include, but are not limited to:

- Dress Code, Tardiness, Absences, Office Referrals, etc.
- In School Suspension (ISS)
- Cheating, Lying, Vandalism, and Theft
- Tobacco Possession, Tobacco Usage, Tobacco Distributing
- Any other listings in the extracurricular code of conduct
- Inappropriate touching including “making out” in public places
- Profanity (cussing)
- Repetitive minor violations could be labeled as a major violation

MAJOR violations are a problem, and will be addressed by the Athletic Department immediately. Examples of “MAJOR” violations include, but are not limited to:

- Off-Campus Suspensions
- DAEP Placements
- Failure of School Mandated Drug Tests
- Admission or proof of: drug possession, usage, or distribution
- Admission or proof of: alcohol possession, usage, or distribution
- Bullying, Racism, or Sexual Harassment
- Getting Arrested
- Threatening with a deadly weapon
- Repetitive minor violations could be labeled as a major violation
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PROCEDURES

Coaches will deal with minor violations, and the Athletic Director/Coordinator may have to determine whether a Major violation of the Athletic Handbook has occurred. Upon determination of a violation, the student will be notified. The parent(s), or guardian(s) and/or the appropriate school official or counselor may also be notified to provide support and guidance in dealing with issues associated with alcohol, drugs, mood altering chemicals, and other prohibited activities. Nothing in this Athletic Handbook limits the authority of a coach to impose reasonable sanctions, including extra workouts, for student-athletes who break team rules or conduct expectations.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Coaches will review all the facts and circumstances surrounding a particular violation and impose appropriate disciplinary action. Coaches will strive for consistency in deciding punishment for Athletic Handbook violations, but will also exercise sound professional discretion when dealing with disciplinary actions. Violation of any of the aforementioned rules by a student-athlete participating in any sport will be subject to the following disciplinary action(s):

All violations will fall under “MINOR” or “MAJOR” categories and the guidelines of those infractions will be followed as outlined:

- 1st Offense – If applicable, School Policy Suspension (14 days) from the date the offense occurred, and parent contacted. Athletically: 10 for 10 and 5 hard yards.
- 2nd Offense – If applicable, School Policy Suspension (90 days) from the date the offense occurred, and parent contacted. Athletically: 10 for 10 and 5 hard yards or possible removal from athletics at the discretion of the athletic director.
- 3rd Offenses – If applicable, School Policy Suspension (180 days) from the date the offense occurred, and parent contacted. Athletically: 10 for 10 and 5 hard yards or possible removal from athletics at the discretion of the athletic director.

DUAL PARTICIPATION

- All student-athletes participating in Snyder Athletics make a commitment to the team, their teammates and their school. Each program demands the dedication of time and energy of the student-athlete. Part of this commitment is to be a student first and strive for academic excellence. Another integral part of that

commitment is to place any Snyder Athletic Team above participation in any non-school sanctioned activity and attend all practices and games scheduled by Snyder coaches.

- If an athlete chooses to miss a Snyder Athletic practice because of participation in an activity not under the auspices of Snyder ISD, the student-athlete could fall subject to discretionary consequences.
- If a student-athlete chooses to miss a Snyder Athletic practice because of participation in a non-Snyder ISD event, the student-athlete could fall subject to discretionary consequences.

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIPS

Both parenting and coaching are very difficult and complex vocations. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better to accept the actions of the other and provide a more positive experience for everyone. Parents have the right to know, and understand, the expectations placed on them and their children. Coaches have the right to know that if parents have a concern, they will discuss it with the coach at the appropriate time and place.

1. Communication parents should expect from the coach:

- Coaches Philosophy
- Expectations
- Location and times of practice
- Team requirements
- Injury procedures

2. Communication coaches should expect from parents:

- Concerns about their child only during a pre-arranged meeting
- Specific concerns in regard to the coaches philosophy/expectations
- Schedule conflicts

3. Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:

- Treatment of your child
- Improvements needs for your child
- Behavior concerns

4. Issues NOT appropriate for discussion with your child's coach:

- Playing time
- Strategy
- Play calling
- Any situation dealing with other athletes
- Statistics

5. *If a parent has a concern to discuss with the coach, the following procedures should be followed:*

- Call the coach to set up an appointment
- If the coach cannot be reached call an assistant coach
- If no coach can be reached call the Athletic Director/Coordinator
- Think about what you expect to accomplish as a result of the meeting
- Stick to discussing facts as you understand them
- Do not confront the coach before, during or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both parties. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution of the situation, but often escalate it.

6. *What should a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?*

- Call the Athletic Director and set up a meeting. The athlete, coach, and parents need to be present.
- At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.
- It's difficult to accept when your child is not one of the best athletes, or performing at the desired level. We all need to understand the coach's first priority is the overall team, and your child is second. Student's involvement in extracurricular activities has been proven to increase their chances of success later in life. We hope this information helps make the experience more enjoyable for everyone involved.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS

- Remember that you are at the contest to support and cheer for your team, and enjoy the competition. NOT to intimidate or ridicule the other team or its fans.
- Remember that school athletics are a learning experience for students, and that mistakes are made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people; just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
- A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
- Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations or calls may take place.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public. THEY ARE HUMAN.

- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during, and after the game or near the site of the event (i.e. tailgating).
- Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
- Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censoring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.
- Game officials can ask that school administrators have unruly fans removed from a contest facility.
- There is no such thing as a “right” to attend interscholastic athletics. Interscholastic athletics are considered a “privilege” and the spectator who avails himself or herself of it is expected to conduct himself or herself accordingly.
- Parents and spectators should be aware that the school can (and will) remove them from the premises due to any type of disruptive behavior. Disruptive behaviors can be defined as but not limited to foul or abusive language, berating of officials, taunting of opposing fans, players, or coaches, lack of cooperation with school officials, not remaining in the bleachers, refusing to leave a restricted area, etc. Spectators may be removed from Snyder events for violating any of these rules. Spectators removed from two contests will be prohibited from attending Snyder contests for the remainder of that season. Spectators removed three times will be prohibited from attending Snyder contests forever. Severe violations (fighting, refusal to leave and behavior requiring police involvement, etc.) may result in an immediate ban from all events for the remainder of the year (or lifetime).
- Keep in mind that you are a guest of the school, and that while winning is certainly an admirable goal; it is hollow if it comes at the expense of morals, ethics, and just plain common sense.
- The school is responsible for the behavior of their spectators. The school district can and will be punished for actions of patrons in violation of UIL standards and rules.

WEATHER AND RELATED CONDITIONS

An educated and informed decision will be made in determining if a practice or a contest can be held when there is a question concerning the weather. No student-athlete will be put at risk in order to have practice or play a contest. We have an indoor facility at our disposal for practices to help protect our student-athletes.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

The district shall excuse student-athletes from attending school and extracurricular activities for the purpose of observing religious holidays when it is a tenet of their faith that they must be absent from school during such time and if, before the absence, the parent, guardian, or person having custody or control of the student submits a written request for the excused absence. The district shall excuse the student-athlete for days on which religious holidays are observed. Excused days for travel shall be limited to no more than one "day to" and one "day from" the site where the student-athlete will observe the holidays. Student-athletes excused under this provision shall be allowed a reasonable time to make up the contest(s) or practice(s) missed during the absence. The absence will count as an excused absence with a reasonable amount of time given to make up for any missed practices or contests.

DRUG TESTING

All student-athletes will be subjected to random testing during the school year. Drug testing will follow the school board district approved policy. Consequences for failing drug tests will be considered "MAJOR" violations and consequences will go as outlined under the school board approved policy.

All medical issues must be addressed with the Athletic Trainer.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Anything on social media should advance the mission of our school district and or athletic program. Parents and Students need to be aware of the harm that can accompany social media outlets. Do not post information, photos, or any other item online that could embarrass you, your family, our teams, or our school. Potential scholarships, admittance into college, and future employment could be affected when improper information is posted on social media.

If slanderous statements are made, possible consequences could be issued to the offender upon the discretion of the Athletic Director and/or Girls Coordinator.

REQUIRED POSTINGS

Access for the UIL Parent Information Handbook and the Texas Education Code SUBCHAPTER F. SAFETY REGULATION FOR CERTAIN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES is at:

http://snyder-shs.ss5.sharpschool.com/programs/athletics/athletic_handbooks/
<https://www.snyderisd.net/o/snyder/page/athletics>

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*You are not required to physically sign this page. However, you are required to sign/initial/complete the electronic copy of all forms in Arbiter including the SISD Handbook section.

A condition for participation in the Snyder ISD Athletic Program is to sign an acknowledgment that the student-athlete has read and understands the Athletic Handbook. The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) must also sign an acknowledgment. The acknowledgment states that the signing party understands the consequences for engaging in prohibited conduct. **ULTIMATELY, THIS HANDBOOK SERVES AS AN OVERSIGHT FOR ALL ATHLETES IN OUR PROGRAM. HOWEVER, THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AND COACHING STAFF RESERVE THE RIGHT AND DISCRETION IN ALL SCENARIOS AND DECISIONS TO HANDLE HOW WE SEE FIT. ATHLETICS IS PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT.**

Student-Athlete:

I have read the Snyder ISD Athletic Handbook and understand the requirements for my child's voluntary participation in Snyder ISD Athletics. I understand the consequences that my child will face if he or she fails to adhere to these rules and agree to such terms.

Parent or Legal Guardian:

I am aware of the sections dealing with Parent/Coach Relationships and Behavior Expectations of Spectators. I agree to abide by the conditions stated therein. I agree to allow my child's name and photo to be used in the newspaper, or any other social media network to be recognized for their accomplishments.